



NEWS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
STATEWIDE NARCOTICS TASK FORCE - EASTERN DIVISION



For immediate release
05/20/2005

Connecticut State Police/Statewide Narcotics Task Force Lengthy Investigation Results in Several Arrests & Large Seizures of Drugs, Weapons, and Vehicles with Hidden Compartments

Connecticut State Troopers, Statewide Narcotics Task Force, Norwich Police and the DEA concluded a 7-month joint investigation into cocaine trafficking in Southeastern Connecticut. The investigation identified a local suspect as well as an individual responsible for transporting the cocaine to Connecticut from out of state.

On Thursday May 12th investigators arrested **Michael G Smith** of 52-2 St. Regis Ave Norwich Ct and **Carlos Martinez** DOB: 5-26-67 of 602 West 157th Street New York New York. in the Crystal mall parking lot in Waterford after the two were observed meeting there. A search of Martinez's vehicle resulted in the seizure of \$10,000.00 located in a hidden compartment. A search of Smith's vehicle, a tan Chrysler, revealed Crack Cocaine, Cocaine, marijuana and \$7,000.00 in cash also in a hidden compartment. Smith was charged with Poss. of Marijuana and Conspiracy to distribute Cocaine. Smith was held in lieu of 2 million dollars bond. Martinez was charged with Possession of Cocaine and Conspiracy to distribute Cocaine and is currently being held in lieu of \$500,000. Both suspects were arraigned in GA-10 in New London on 05-13-05. Also arrested on 05-12-05 was **Erica Darling** DOB: 1-16-85 of 91 Leffingwell Road Apartment 4-6 Norwich. Darling was a passenger in Smith's vehicle. Darling was charged with Poss. Of Marijuana and released on a Non-Surety bond.

Following the arrests of Martinez and Smith investigators executed search warrants on two other vehicles known to be utilized by Smith. That both vehicles were found to have hidden compartments containing drugs, cash and handguns.

A total amount of items seized are 4 vehicles (all of which had hidden compartments) / 3 hand guns / 8 Cell phones / electronic digital scales /5 lbs Crack / 1 ½ lbs Cocaine / 7 oz Marijuana and \$77,000.00 cash.

The estimated potential street value of the drugs is placed at \$ 708,000.00

On Friday 5-20-05 Smith was presented in New London Superior Court and served with arrest warrants charging the following: 13 counts of Sale of Crack Cocaine over ½ gram, 11 counts of Conspiracy to sell Crack Cocaine over ½ gram, 3 counts of Sale of Cocaine and 3 Counts of Conspiracy to sell Cocaine. An addition 2 million dollar bond was set on these warrants.

Anyone with information pertaining to illicit drugs is asked to contact the Statewide Narcotics Task Force – Eastern Field Office at (860) 442 9491 All Calls Will remain confidential.

###SNTF/wft###